

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 4**

#### **Summer Announcement # 4, Districts 1, 2, and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

In preparation for another potentially poor Yukon River Chinook salmon run, subsistence fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest to help ensure adequate escapement. For example, a family that normally harvests 40 Chinook salmon should consider taking only 10 this year. Fishermen should consider shifting harvest to other salmon species, where possible, to supplement a reduced Chinook salmon harvest.

Subsistence salmon fishing in Yukon River Districts 1, 2, and 3 is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day and fishermen may use gillnets with mesh size of 7.5 inches or less until the regulatory schedule becomes effective.

Conservative management actions are being implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan outlined in the 2013 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook. Despite an unusually late breakup, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin May 30 in District 1 and will be implemented chronologically upriver. As the schedule is initiated, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in each district including the Coastal District and the Innoko River.

**Coastal District:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 30, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a

week, 24 hours per day.

**District 1:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 30, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Thursdays until 8:00 a.m. Saturdays and from 8:00 p.m. Mondays until 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen are reminded that state waters beyond 1 mile offshore of District 1 are included in the Coastal District.

**District 2:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 2, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

**District 3:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

**Innoko River:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game seasonal office in Emmonak will open for the 2013 season on June 3. Office hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the office will be closed on Sunday. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Emmonak seasonal office will open June 4 with the same office hours.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Anchorage at 267-2217 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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